

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

March 2024



Dear Friends

The past couple of weeks have put a real spring into my step. The days are lighter and the snowdrops, crocus and daffodils are pushing their heads through the winter ground. The birds in my garden seem to be singing with great gusto. Spring is definitely on the way!

The beginning of March takes us to the third Sunday of Lent. Last month I said that I was taking up the 'Jar of Change Challenge' for WaterAid and giving up chocolate. I even convinced the good folk of Baldernock to join me. Well, I have reflected on my choice and decided that chocolate was perhaps the easier choice. Crisps now – that would be much harder! I am glad to say that not one crisp has passed my lips since Ash Wednesday!

Reflection allows us a time to perhaps slow down a little, to think or ponder, to develop new insights. The Season of Lent is a time for reflection and understanding, as we again walk the journey to the cross with our Lord. It is a time for prayer, for our world, our community, our Church and ourselves. Recently, I came across an inspirational quote on prayer. It said "Worry is a conversation you have with yourself about things you cannot change. Prayer is a conversation that we have with God about things that He can change". These words jumped right off the screen as I read them and I thought how appropriate they were for this season. This is the time when we marvel at the baptism of Jesus, His miracles and His teachings, when we celebrate the joy of Palm Sunday, the pain of the journey to the Cross and on to the joy of Easter Sunday. The day when He rose again. The day when the light of the world overcame the darkness.

It was good news to hear that the 'sisting' of our call for a minister has been lifted and that Presbytery had advised that the Nominating Committee could begin their task. The Committee has now begun its work. At every meeting it begins and closes in prayer. Prayer for guidance and wisdom in all that they do. Can I ask that, as a congregation, we hold the members of the Nominating Committee in our prayers. It is an exciting time in the life of Baldernock linked with St Paul's. We look forward in faith to the beginning of new chapter.

With every blessings to you and yours.

Barbara

Future Services

| | MORNING | EVENING |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 10 March | Rev. Robbie Hamilton | Dr. Grace Rogerson |
| 17 March | Dr. Robin Easton | The Guild |
| 24 March Palm Sunday | Rev. Barbara O'Donnell | Rev. Alan Wells |
| 31 March Easter Sunday | Rev. Barbara O'Donnell | Easter Praise |
| 07 April | TBC | Rev. Paul Read |
| 14 April | Rev. Barbara O'Donnell | Men's Association |
| 21 April Communion | Rev. Barbara O'Donnell | TBC |

Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place in the Large Hall on Wednesday, 8th May 2024 at 7:45 pm. At this meeting the Accounts for year ended 31st December, 2023 will be received and members will be elected to the Congregational Board. There are currently 5 vacancies on the Board and if you or any member you know, would like to serve in this way please contact Lachie McNeill, Clerk to the Board, for further information.

Vacancy Update

Clyde Presbytery approved the lifting of the sist on our vacancy at its meeting on 13th February. This allowed the Nominating Committee to meet for the first time on the 19th February. Please remember the committee in our prayers as they seek a candidate to fill the vacancy.

The Parish Profile has been agreed and can be viewed on the church web-site. The Vacancy Schedule has been completed and submitted to Clyde Presbytery.

The work of the committee is strictly confidential and they will report back to the congregation when they have selected a sole nominee.

Holy Week

The Holy Week evening services will be held in the Allander Evangelical Church from Monday 25th March to Friday 29th March.

Monday & Tuesday: Rev. Simon Turner, Hamilton Baptist Church
Wednesday - Friday: Rev. John Mackinnon, One to One Ministries

The Good Friday Walk of Witness will leave from Gavin's Mill at 11am on 29th March.

See weekly intimations for details.

Lent

The Saturday morning half-hour Services starting at 9.30am will be held from 2nd to 23rd March.

| | |
|----------|------------------------|
| 02 March | Rev. Barbara O'Donnell |
| 09 March | Stephen Thoms |
| 16 March | Dr. Robin Easton |
| 23 March | Graham Mill |



Prayer Group

We are pleased to welcome Lynda Gow to the Prayer Group on **Thursday 7th March at 8.00 pm.**

Lynda will give us an insight into the work which takes place at Preshal. This will enable us to have a better understanding of the day to day work which is carried out as well as the challenges they face on a daily basis.

If you are able and would like to know more, please come along to pray about this challenging and worthwhile outreach.

Linda Muirhead

St Paul's Church Society Cards

A donation of £200 has been sent to Dalmuir Barclay Community Pantry recently. Cards will now be on sale for our next Charity CHAS (£120 has already been donated).

All cards remain at £1 and some examples of individual Easter cards are now on display, outside the Church Office.



Special cards eg weddings, anniversaries, baby cards, and special birthdays are available on request. Some examples of these cards are available next to the main card stand.

Cards are also provided to be delivered along with the flowers from the Church to the sick, housebound and bereaved members of the congregation.

Many thanks for your continued support .

Elizabeth McEwan

Thank You

We would like to express our thanks to the congregation for the support shown throughout Alda's illness and also at the attendance of her funeral. The cards, flowers and visits have all been much appreciated.

The fantastic sum of £1000 was raised at the funeral for St. Margaret's hospice. Carla has decided to participate in the Kiltwalk on the 28th April - walking 23 miles from Glasgow Green to Balloch to raise further funds for the hospice.

If you would like to donate, please use the link or QR code below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/carla-macallister-1707599322259>



The Boyd Family

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

One of the values of OMF International, the mission organisation I serve with, is that we celebrate diversity in unity. We are an international inter-denominational mission. That means that we can have quite different backgrounds from each other. In the years I have been in Japan, I have served on teams with people from Germany, Australia, America, Canada, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore. It is both fascinating and challenging.

Altogether in OMF Japan, we have people with passports from 19 different countries. Some people have two or even three passports! For our children, the common language they speak is often Japanese since most of them attend Japanese kindergarten and primary school.

People from different backgrounds often think differently, have different values. This can make it a challenge to serve on a team together. However, having people with different perspectives can also be extremely enlightening. By listening to each other, our minds can be open to different possibilities, different ways of doing things.

When we serve with people who are different from us, it is important to remember what unites us. In OMF Japan, the things that we have in common are that we all believe in Jesus and long for many Japanese people to come to know Him too so that there will be a vibrant church impacting every community.

In Romans 15:5-7, Paul asks that God give believers the same attitude of mind toward each other that Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In OMF Japan, we hope that working together in unity with other Christians from all over the world, will show Japanese people something of how wonderful it is to be part of God's family.

I am so grateful to everyone from God's family at St. Paul's, for all the love and support you give me, and for your prayers for the people of Japan. Thank you so much.

With love and prayers from Lorna and Alistair

Guild News



February was a very busy month with speakers from Milngavie in Bloom and Milngavie First Responders. We were very glad that Peter Buchan, one of our congregation, was able to lead us in a Bible study and we had a very inspirational talk from Fiona Morrison, Chaplain at Low Moss Prison.

March will also be a very busy month for our members with speakers from Trading Standards advising us on SCAMS and from Starchild which is one of our projects.

Annual Coffee Morning: Saturday, 9th of March (10:00 - 12:00)

Tickets priced £2.50 are available or you can pay on the day.



Stalls include: home baking, cards and knitted items.

Donations from this event will be sent to the two main projects which we are supporting this session: Starchild and The Vine Trust.

Donations of baking will be gratefully received and these can be brought to the Church on Friday the 8th of March between 10 and 12.

The Guild Committee will be leading the Evening Service on the 17th of March at 7pm.

Our AGM will take place on the 18th of March when we will look forward to being entertained by David Turner.

As always everyone is most welcome to join us on a Monday afternoon at 2pm in the Large Hall for fellowship and a cuppa.

Elizabeth McEwan

Men's Association

During March, the Association will conclude its programme for 2023/4, which seems to have passed so quickly. The Committee are already planning another programme for 2024/5 which will be intimated when finalised.

Our first meeting in March is on Tuesday 5th March, at the usual time in the Jubilee Hall, and our speaker will be Fiona Hennebry, the organiser of the Charity, *Bags Full of Love*, based at Dalmuir Barclay Parish Church. Fiona was due to be with us in November but, unfortunately, her car hit a pothole on Craigdhu Road on the way to us, and, not surprisingly, she didn't make it. We look forward to hearing of the huge outreach this Charity does in West Dunbartonshire.

Our final meeting is on 26th March (a change from the original date of 19th March) when we will have our AGM, followed by a tale of a bizarre court case from the 1970s by a fairly old retired solicitor (to be introduced on the night!) and then some amusing film clips compiled by Chris Scott. All will be made very welcome.

As usual, tea or coffee plus a nibble will be available from 7ish on each evening.

Brian Adair





Flower Delivery Rota

The Flower Delivery Rota
for
3rd March - 2nd June
is now in pigeon holes ready
for collection

Kate Edwards



Charity Donations

For a number of years, we have been donating food to the Preshal Trust in Govan. Towards the end of last year we became very conscious of the wider need in the community and the Kirk Session has agreed that in future, donations will be spread over a number of local charities.

From 3rd March, the donations received will be distributed each month as follows:

1st Sunday
2nd Sunday
3rd Sunday
4th Sunday

Dalmuir Barclay Community Pantry
East Dunbartonshire Food Bank
St. Rollox Community Outreach
Preshal Trust.



Lodging House Mission – Easter Egg Appeal

Donations for the appeal, eggs or financial
(Gift Aid envelopes available)
can be left
at the back of the church.





Lunch Club

A big thank you is due to the many helpers who week by week make the Lunch Club possible. Thanks also to our bakers who provide such tempting goodies for us to enjoy.

If you were able to help about 2 or 3 times a year that would be great. We are so thankful for the help of Hugh who gives much assistance regularly.

Due to the generosity of so many people, we have been able to give donations to several charities both local and abroad, this year. Among them are St. Paul's, SU Scotland, the Lodging House Mission, Tear Fund, and MAF Scotland. We have received letters of thanks from these charities who greatly appreciate our generous donations.

All this would not be possible without the loyal support of the many who enjoy lunch most Wednesdays at 12pm. If you have not been, come along and enjoy good food and fellowship.

Ann MacLeod

SATURDAY, 16 March 2024

Sunkids

P1-P5 from 4:15-6:00 in the Large Hall

The Ark

S1 and up from 7:30-10:00 in the Large Hall

Free Will Offering Envelopes

Free Will Offering Envelopes for dates April 2024-March 2025 will be available for collection at the back of the church during the month of March.

J Wallis WFO Treasurer

Life and Work

In 2024, *Life and Work* magazine is featuring a monthly Presbytery Focus and the April issue will feature Clyde.

Additional copies at £3.50 have been ordered and will be available at the end of March. Annual subscriptions printed or digital, are available through www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe. Digital issue only £2.99 and print £3.50.

I am raising funds for Carers Link to enable them to provide support for unpaid carers throughout East Dunbartonshire, by completing the Coast to Coast path (St Bees to Robin Hood's Bay), walking from Kirkby Stephen to Robin Hood's Bay, commencing 27th April - approx 107 miles over 2 weeks.

Anyone who would wish to support Carers Link could donate through their website on Just Giving or contribute via the sponsor form at the back of the Church.



Marjorie Thoms

Spring Clean for the Loft



Organisations will shortly be getting notification of a request to book a slot with Hugh so that we can get the loft tidied up. Please start thinking about what you really need to keep in the loft as space is definitely at a premium!

Come along and enjoy a lovely evening of Scottish Fiddle Music

Friday, 22 March 2024 7:00 (doors open at 6:15)
at Cairns Church, Milngavie

Tickets £10 (includes refreshment)
are available from the
Honeybee Bakery or at the door.



Money raised by this event will go to Bearsden Fiddlers' charity this year which is VISIBILITY SCOTLAND

New Kilpatrick 375

A long time ago in the first few years of the 13th century, a few intrepid monks forded the Clyde, 50 years after establishing Paisley Abbey. They began a church on the north side of the Clyde.

We have all grown out of that legacy and our stories are all tangled together as we emerged out of and alongside one another.

Over the years, we have all shaped and grown our parishes and community and given of ourselves for the gospel and these people.



New Kilpatrick became a parish church 375 years ago and we are celebrating that this year.

It is the “parish” idea that is important to us because it is always about relationships and community and people. The number of years we have actually been here is less significant than the work in which we engage among the people of our parishes.

On Sunday 18th February, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland - Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, joined the congregation and guests from the community for breakfast and a service of praise and celebration.

A number of events are planned in the coming months including:

- ◆ Heritage Weekend on 9th/10th March
- ◆ Concert led by the Glasgow NHS Choir on Saturday 16th March (7pm).
- ◆ LAMPS Collective, a group from Oxford, offer their passion play in Holy Week on Tuesday 26th March (1pm and 7.30pm).

All are welcome to join us in the celebrations.

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Flower Donations

Thank you for the Flower Donations given in Memory for the Month of March:

T Knaggs, C Tanner, S Stewart.



Please address donations to Treasurer, Mrs Barbara Lawson & clearly mark "For The Flower Fund".

Donations can be left in the Flower Guild pigeon hole at the back of the Church, or in the offering plate marked for "The Flower Fund".

Copy Date

The copy date for the April issue is **Wednesday, 27 March**.

Please send any articles to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com